

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 28, and 29 remain in this application. No claim was previously allowed.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 29 stand rejected as unpatentable over *Bouve* (US 5,682,525) in view of *Hancock* (US 6,202,023). The applicants respectfully traverse that rejection.

Claim 1 is the only independent claim remaining in the application. That claim defines a method for searching a database in an information-retrieval system according to geographical location information identified by a user of a mobile communications device operating on a wireless network. The method comprises creating a database for geographical location information for plural items of interest, receiving geographical location information corresponding to a location of the user's communications device, receiving a search request from the user, and detecting whether that search request is for items of interest in a vicinity of the geographical location or of a different geographical location identified by the user which is a previous location of the user's mobile communications device. The method also generates a search query for items of interest only within a certain geographical proximity of the previous location identified by the user.

The rejection admits that *Bouve* does not explicitly teach "different location... being a previous location of the user's communication device...". However, the rejection asserts that *Hancock* provides that missing teaching, citing column 1 lines 15-20, column 8 line 60 to column 9 line 10, column 6 lines 19-22, and column 7 lines 40-49. The applicants do not agree that *Hancock* discloses their claimed element untaught by *Bouve*

and they traverse the Examiner's interpretation of *Hancock* on which that conclusion is based.

Hancock's disclosures of "preconfiguring" geographical locations pertains to locational addresses of fixed places, that is, of desired destinations such as an individual's home or a business customer. That teaching appears at column 8, line 60-column 9, line 17, for example. Column 26, lines 19-22 disclose using telephone number identification systems to determine *predefined fixed locations* of users based on an assigned telephone number, not pertinent to a method involving use of a mobile communications device.

Lines 12-16 of column 9 do state that an ALI device is used to track position, and possibly the speed and bearing, of a portable computing device, as the Examiner asserts in paragraph 5 of the most recent Office action. However, that teaching of *Hancock* merely discloses identifying the present location of a mobile communications device.

Turning to column 27, lines 40-49, *Hancock* discloses that a desired location for a search destination (e.g., fast-food restaurants within five-mile radius) may be different from the current location if the user may wish to find those restaurants "from a location one hour in the future." *Hancock* points out that he can use current location, current speed and bearing information to predict that desire (future) location.

What *Hancock* does not disclose, however, is "detecting whether the request is to search... for items... located in a vicinity of the geographical location of the user's communications device or of a different geographical location identified by the user and being a previous location of the user's mobile communications device". The Examiner attempts to overcome that deficient teaching by observing that at any point in the future, the "current location" of the user's mobile device becomes a "previous location", and that

a "future location" will also become a "previous location" at sometime in the future. That observation, albeit true, is not "detecting whether the request is to search the database for items... located in a vicinity of the... user's communications device or of a different geographical location identified by the user and being a previous location...".

Furthermore, merely noting that a current location becomes a previous location in the future does not provide, to *Hancock* or *Bouve*, the teaching missing from that latter reference but supplied by the present applicants. Both *Bouve* and *Hancock* teach forward-looking geographic referencing systems, namely, systems for navigating from a current geographical location to items of interest in a vicinity of that current geographical location. Absent a teaching directing one of ordinary skill to substitute "a previous location of the user's mobile communications device" for items of interest in the vicinity of the user's present geographical location, no teaching exists for a method comprising the combination of limitations recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, that claim and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the applied art.

Claims 8-11 and 28 are rejected as unpatentable over *Bouve* and *Hancock*, further in view of *Rennard* (US 6,615,131). The applicants respectfully traverse that rejection for the reasons set forth above with regard to parent Claim 21, on which Claims 8 et al. depend through dependent Claim 28.

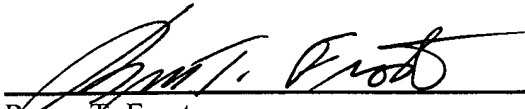
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The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office action identified above. The applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and solicit a notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD

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Roger Y. Frost
Reg. No. 22,176

Merchant & Gould, LLC
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
Telephone: 404.954.5100

